

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 06902 202116 Z

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8514

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SUBJ: AFRICAN ASSOCIATION WITH EUROPE

1. SENEGALESE PRESIDENT SENGHOR DURING UNOFFICIAL STOP IN PARIS BEFORE VISITING BRUSSELS TO DISCUSS WITH EC FUTURE RELATIONS BETWEEN AFRICA AND EUROPE GAVE EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW TO FRANCOIS MENNELET OF " FIGARO". TEXT OF INTERVIEW WHICH PUBLISHED MARCH 20 BEING POUCHED. SENGHOR SPEAKING AS BOTH PRESIDENT OF OCAM AND SPOKESMAN FOR 18 AFRICAN COUNTRIES ASSOCIATED WITH EC SAID HE HAD BEEN CHARGED WITH TASK OF DISCUSSING IN BRUSSELS RENEWAL OF YAOUNDE ACCORDS. SENGHOR SAID HE HAD PERSONALLY SUPPORTED ENLARGEMENT OF EC BECAUSE OF HIS HOPE THAT IT WOULD FACILITATE CREATION OF WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY COMPOSED OF BOTH FRANCOPHONE AND ANGLOPHONE COUNTRIES.

2. ON SUBJECT OF PREFERENCES, SENGHOR REPEATED HIS FAMILIAR VIEWS THAT THEY ARE ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF ANY FREE TRADE AREA AND THAT ON MORAL LEVEL EUROPEAN- AFRICAN ASSOCIATION MUST NOT
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BE RELATIONSHIP IN WHICH AFRICANS WERE " BEGGARS." SENGHOR DESCRIBED EUROPEAN AID TO AFRICA AS REPARATIONS FOR DAMAGE DONE TO AFRICAN TERMS OF TRADE, CITING 5.7 PERCENT ANNUAL INCREASE IN PRICE OF EUROPEAN IMPORTS AND 1.2 PERCENT DECLINE IN PRICE OF SENEGALESE EXPORTS.

3. SENHOR ALSO EXPRESSED HOPE THAT EUROPEAN- AFRICAN RELATIONS WOULD REMAIN " PRIVILEGED." IN HIS VIEW THESE RELATIONS REINFORCE EUROPE' S OWN EFFORTS TO BE COUNTERWEIGHT TO AMERICA, THE SOVIET UNION, THE EASTERN BLOC, AND A CHINA RECONCILED WITH JAPAN.

4. ON REVISION OF COOPERATION ACCORDS WITH FRANCE, SENGHOR NOTED THAT SENEGAL SEVERAL TIMES SINCE INDEPENDENCE HAD MODIFIED ITS AGREEMENTS WITH FRANCE AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO WHENEVER NECESSARY. SENEGAL, HOWEVER, HAD FELT NO NEED TO SAY SO PUBLICLY.

5. FINALLY, SENGHOR TOUCHED ON ANOTHER THEME OF WHICH HE IS PASSIONATE ADVOCATE: CREATION OF AN ATLANTIC GROUP IN AFRICA EXTENDING FROM NOUAKCHOTT TO KINSHASA. WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, HE SAID, WAS A FIRST STEP. FORMER FRENCH WEST AFRICAN STATES MUST RESOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS, THEN EXPAND TO INCLUDE ENGLISH, SPANISH AND EVEN PORTUGUESE- SPEAKING AREAS.

6. COMMENT: BASIC ELEMENT OF SENGHOR' S REMARKS AND FOCUS GIVEN BY " FIGARO" WAS SENGHOR' S CONVICTION THAT CLOSE EUROPEAN- AFRICAN ASSOCIATION WAS NOT ONLY IN AFRICA' S INTERESTS BUT ALSO IN EUROPE' S. BY SKILLFULLY HIGHLIGHTING EUROPE' S STATUS VIS- A- VIS OTHER GREAT POWERS, HE STRUCK NOTE TO WHICH FRENCH LEADERS ARE LIKELY TO BE RESPONSIVE, SINCE IT REINFORCES THEIR OWN VIEW OF THE SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPORTANCE OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION.

DECON 12/31/74.
IRWIN

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